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please quote
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your reference

date

23 May 2005

Document : 1087508

By Fax
0041 22 7335428

Dear Sirs

**RE: Patent Application No. PCT/GB2004/004255 in International (PCT)
in the name of University of Southampton**

Please find enclosed an amended set of Claims 1-3, which are being filed under Article 19 PCT. Amended Claims 1-3 replace Claims 1-4 currently on file.

Amendments Under Article 19 PCT:

Claims 1 and 2 have been replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers, Claim 3 is unchanged, and Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Informal Comments:

We submit that the amended Claims 1-3 being filed herewith under Article 19 PCT are both novel and inventive over all of the cited documents.

Furthermore, we submit that Claim 2, as amended, is clear and meets the requirements of Article 6 PCT. Article 6 PCT requires that the Claims be both clear and concise. We submit that any attempt to define the scope of Claim 2 without reference to Figure 2 would result in a claim that would be far less clear and far less concise than the current Claim 2. Accordingly, we submit that it is absolutely necessary to refer to Figure 2 in Claim 2, in order to meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

With regard to the documents cited in the Written Opinion of the ISA, we submit that none of the documents discloses a process according to the present Claims 1-3.

The present invention provides a combinatorial chemistry process for the simultaneous deposition of two or more materials in uniformly varying amounts, the amounts varying

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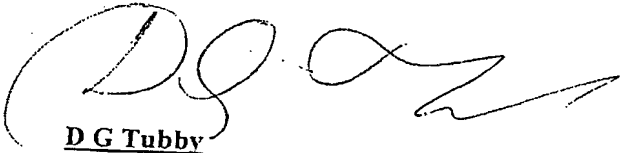
according to a pre-arranged pattern according to location on a substrate. This is achieved by the process according to Claims 1-3.

In the process of the current invention, each of two or more vapour sources is associated with its own associated mask, and each mask is positioned carefully as defined in the Claims.

As explained in the description of the present application on Page 2 (lines 8-9), it is the 'careful positioning' of the mask(s) that results in the special benefits of the present invention. In particular, the careful positioning of the mask(s) according to Claims 1-3 allows total control over the growth of the wedge of deposited material(s) on the substrate, each gradient being fully controllable between a uniform film and a film with a sharp gradient. In this way, the present process allows considerably more flexibility and subtlety in mixing materials, which is an important advantage in combinatorial chemistry.

None of the cited documents disclose or suggest a process according to the present invention. Thus, we submit that the present claims are both novel and inventive over the cited documents.

Yours faithfully,
MARKS & CLERK



D G Tubby

Encl. Amended Claims

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